<u>**REMARKS**</u>

Claims 1-36 are currently pending in the subject application and are currently under consideration. Claims 1, 9 and 18 have been amended as shown on pages 2-6 of this Reply. Claims 8 and 19 have been canceled.

Favorable reconsideration of the subject patent application is respectfully requested in view of the comments herein.

I.   <u>Rejection of Claims 1-36 Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)</u>

In the Final Office Action dated February 27, 2006, claims 1-36 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Christiano (US 5,671,412) in view of Beck *et al.* (US 6,381,640). It is respectfully submitted that this rejection should be withdrawn for at least the following reasons. Christiano and Beck *et al.*, individually or in combination, do not teach or suggest each and every element as set forth in the subject claims.

> To reject claims in an application under §103, an examiner must show an unrebutted *prima facie* case of obviousness. A *prima facie* case of obviousness is established by a showing of three basic criteria. First, there must be some suggestion or motivation, either in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art, to modify the reference or to combine reference teachings. Second, there must be a reasonable expectation of success. Finally, the prior art reference (or references when combined) must teach or suggest all the claim limitations. *See* MPEP §706.02(j). The teaching or suggestion to make the claimed combination and the reasonable expectation of success must both be found in the prior art and not based on applicants' disclosure. *See In re Vaeck,* 947 F.2d 488, 20 USPQ2d 1438 (Fed. Cir. 1991).

Applicants' claimed invention relates to a license enforcement system and methodology. The system comprises a monitoring component for monitoring use of licensed software applications and detecting variations from their respective licensing agreements in real-time. The system also comprises an enforcement component for initiating corrective actions to force users to comply with licensing agreements or deny the user access to the licensed software. More particularly, independent claim 1 recites a system for adding or transferring licenses to a computer system, comprising: *a wizard component; and a license database interface component that communicates with a license database, wherein the wizard component provides a graphical*

user interface to facilitate communication between a license store and a license database, and **wherein the wizard component receives an activation code entered by a user to activate a license component.** Christiano and Beck *et al.*, individually or in combination, fail to teach or suggest such aspects of the claimed invention.

Christiano discloses a software license management system. A license server provides packages and program licenses and allows several license modifiers to be stored in license records to provide a licensor with a variety of options and flexibility. A server address finder and diagnostic function mitigate common license server network problems. (*See* col. 3, lines 12-20). The license server provides licenses from the license data base to client computer systems to allow the client computer systems to use licensed software products. A request is received from a client by the server. A license is granted to the client when the client is allowed to receive the license according to a license policy. The license allows the client to use the requested software product. (*See* col. 4, lines 12-34). At Page 3 of the Final Office Action (dated February 27, 2006), the Examiner acknowledges that Christiano fails to disclose a wizard and a graphical interface for communication between a license store and a license database, as disclosed in the subject claims.

Beck *et al.* does not make up for the aforementioned deficiencies of Christiano with respect to independent claim 1 (which claims 2-9 depend there from). Beck *et al.* discloses a system for structuring workload for agents, a multimedia communication center (MMCC). The system comprises an outward-facing communication interface for accepting communications from clients; an inward-facing interface for communicating with agents, including log-on procedures for agents; and an operating system (OS) for managing operations of the MMCC. The OS, upon agent log-on, activates an agent-specific software model that checks agent parameters, enterprise rules, and work-in-progress, and prepares work assignments for the agents. (*See* col. 5, lines 21-32).

Further, an agent work presentation software model (AWPM) is provided, comprising an identification function to an agent or agent group; a programming interface for a supervisor to enter operating parameters; an automatic interface to one or more OS data repositories; a display module; and a log-in start module. An authorized supervisor enters an agent or agents for the identification function, and parameters controlling the presentation of workload to a listed agent, the AWPM launches automatically for identified agents at log-in, checks data repositories for

agent parameters and work to be done, and presents work to the agent *via* a display at a Personal Computer/video display unit at an agent station assigned to the agent logging-in. (*See* col. 5, lines 43-59).

The combination of Christiano and Beck *et al.* does not teach the claimed invention. Specifically, the addition of a wizard and graphical interface for a license manager does not read on the presently claimed system for adding or transferring licenses. Christiano does not disclose a wizard component that receives an activation code entered by a user to activate a license component, as presently claimed in applicants' claim 1. The license component of the present invention is a mechanism for adding one or more digital licenses to a system. A hardware ID component then produces a unique code to identify the computing system by its hardware. A license ID component then retrieves a license code associated with the license component to be activated. The license code according to one aspect of the invention can be retrieved from a user by manual keyboard entry using the interface component.

A network communication component then receives the code or codes and transmits them to a license database *via* a wide area network (WAN). The WAN provides the code(s) provided by the hardware ID component and the license ID component to a license database. *The license database verifies the license code to ensure its authenticity, saves the hardware ID and license code, and generates an activation code or confirmation ID that corresponds to the provided license code.* The license database then transmits the activation code back over the WAN to the network communications component. The network communication component then provides the required activation code as input to the license component to activate the license component. (*See* pg. 15, line 14-pg. 16, line 13).

In contrast, the agent-specific software model disclosed by Beck *et al.* is a help model that checks agent parameters, enterprise rules and work-in-progress, and prepares work assignments for the agents. (*See* col. 5, lines 21-31). Beck *et al.* does not disclose a wizard component that utilizes an activation code corresponding to a license code to activate a license component for adding or transferring licenses to a computer system. Accordingly, both Christiano and Beck *et al.* are silent with regard to *a wizard component that receives an activation code entered by a user to activate a license component.*

Furthermore, independent claim 18 recites a method for adding licenses to a computer system using a series of interactive display screens, comprising, *accepting a license agreement*

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by selecting a button indicating acceptance of the agreement; *indicating a method of contacting a license database; providing a license code identifying a particular license component;* ***receiving an activation code from the license database, wherein the activation code is provided to a license component to activate the license component which then installs digital licenses to the computer system.***

As stated *supra*, the combination of Christiano and Beck *et al.* does not teach the claimed invention. Specifically, the addition of a wizard and graphical interface for a license manager does not read on the presently claimed method for adding or transferring licenses. Neither Christiano nor Beck *et al.* disclose a method for adding licenses to a computer using a series of interactive display screens, wherein a license agreement is accepted by selecting a button indicating acceptance of the agreement and an activation code is provided to activate the license component and install digital licenses, as presently claimed in applicants' claim 18. The license component of the present invention is a mechanism for adding one or more digital licenses to a system.

A WAN provides the code(s) provided by a hardware ID component and a license ID component to a license database. A license database verifies the license code to ensure its authenticity, saves the hardware ID and license code, and generates an activation code or confirmation ID that corresponds to the provided license code. The license database then transmits the activation code back over the WAN to the network communications component. The network communication component then provides the required activation code as input to the license component to activate the license component. (*See* pg. 15, line 14-pg. 16, line 13). Accordingly, both Christiano and Beck *et al.* are silent with regard to a method for adding licenses to a computer using a series of interactive display screens, ***wherein a license agreement is accepted by selecting a button indicating acceptance of the agreement;... and wherein an activation code is provided to a license component to activate the license component which then installs digital licenses to the computer system.***

Furthermore, independent claims 10, 27 and 33 recite a system and method for backing up and restoring licenses using an interactive wizard, comprising, *specifying a file path indicating the location of a copy of a license; and receiving confirmation that licenses have been saved or restored.*

As stated *supra*, the combination of Christiano and Beck *et al.* does not teach the claimed invention. Specifically, the addition of a wizard and graphical interface for a license manager does not read on the presently claimed system and method for backing up or restoring licenses. Neither Christiano nor Beck *et al.* disclose a system and method for backing up or restoring licenses using an interactive wizard, as presently claimed in applicants' claims 10, 27 and 33. The wizard component guides a user though a process of backing-up and/or restoring licenses. Specifically, the wizard component interfaces with the license store, and other computer hardware and software components to enable an end-user to easily add and activate a license using a straightforward step-by-step process. A backup storage interface component is coupled to the wizard component and provides access to backup storage such as backup store. Accordingly, a user employing the wizard component can quickly and easily access backup licenses and associated data to a backup store and thereafter restore data from a backup store to a license store if and when it is necessary. (*See* pg. 21, line 20-pg. 22, line 3). Accordingly, both Christiano and Beck *et al.* are silent with regard to *a system and method for backing up or restoring licenses using an interactive wizard*.

Thus, there is no motivation to combine Beck *et al.* and Christiano, as the addition of Beck *et al.* does not solve the deficiencies of Christiano. In view of the aforementioned deficiencies of Christiano and Beck *et al.*, it is respectfully submitted that this rejection be withdrawn with respect to independent claims 1, 10, 18, 27 and 33 (which claims 2-9, 11-17, 19-26, 28-32 and 34-36 depend respectively there from).

CONCLUSION

The present application is believed to be condition for allowance in view of the above comments. A prompt action to such end is earnestly solicited.

In the event any fees are due in connection with this document, the Commissioner is authorized to charge those fees to Deposit Account No. 50-1063 [MSFTP497US].

Should the Examiner believe a telephone interview would be helpful to expedite favorable prosecution, the Examiner is invited to contact applicants' undersigned representative at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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